(a) the number of licensed agents authorised to sell postal stamps and stationery and book registered articles in the country;

(b) whether any opposition has been registered against the scheme of appointment of such agents;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) 144 Licenced Postal Agents are operating the country.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Staff Unions had opposed the scheme.

(d) The scheme has been kept in abeyance since 1987 for granting further licences.

Censorship on Press

3449. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce Censorship on the Press;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any inquiry has been made into abuse of freedom of press in the recent past; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Mobile Telephone Facility in Patna

3450. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide mobile telephone facility in various cities and particularly in Patna, the capital of Bihar;

(b) if so, by when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) The Government has licensed M/s. Reliance Telecom Pvt. Ltd. to provide Cellular Mobile Telephones service in Bihar. A letter of intent has also been issued to M/s. Koshika Telecom Pvt. Ltd. for this service in Bihar. As per the license agreement, the companies are required to provide the service in atleast 10% of the district headquarters in the first year.

(b) As per the Licence Agreement, the company should start the service in Bihar including Patna by the end of December, 1996.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a).

[English]

Indian Bureau of Mines

3451. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the regional offices of the Indian Bureau of Mines State-wise, location wise;

(b) whether the Government have any proposal to set up such more Regional Offices in various States particularly in Karnataka;

(c) if so, the details thereof State-wise; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) The regional offices of Indian Bureau of Minies are as follows:—

State	Location
Rajasthan	Ajmer and Udaipur
Karnataka	Bangalore
West Bengal	Calcutta
Uttar Pradesh	Dehradun
Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad
Madhya Pradesh	Jabalpur
Tamil Nadu	Madras
Goa	Margao
Maharashtra	Nagpur
Bihar	Ranchi
Sub-Regional Office:	
Andhra Pradesh	Nellore